

CONGRESSMAN **JESSE L. JACKSON JR.**

PROUDLY SERVING THE 2nd DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2010

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September 27,

CONGRESSMAN JACKSON REMEMBERS REV. JAMES DEMUS

Chicago, IL - Today, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. released the following statement in remembrance of Rev. James Demus, pastor of Chicago's Park Manor Christian Church and a noted civil rights leader, who passed away recently after a fight with cancer.

"Rev. James Demus was a great leader and a good man who will be dearly missed by his family, friends, congregation and community. He was an outspoken advocate for the poor and disenfranchised, a lead organizer of the Million Man March in Washington and a prophetic voice on closing the digital divide that leaves so many in our communities without access to technology and the Internet.

"But before he was known across Chicago and the country for his work as a minister and civil rights leader, he was known on my block for being a founding member of the Grapefruit League - a running series of pick-up basketball games in my family's drive-way starring Rev. Demus, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., Rev. Bill Samuels and Frank Watkins. What Rev. Demus lacked in his jump shot he made up for with enthusiasm, fight and vigor. He brought that same spirit to his work.

"I will miss Rev. Demus' lively laugh, profound counsel and abiding faith, and send my deepest condolences to his wife Eleanor and the entire Demus family."

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